

**REMARKS**

Claims 10-20 are pending in the application. Claims 18 and 19 are withdrawn.  
Claims 10 and 20 are independent.

**The Claimed Invention**

It is desirable, that a free edge of a compartment, for accommodating articles to be cooled, may be mounted with a strip for reinforcing the free edge otherwise for aesthetic reasons. The present invention provides a refrigerator having an inner space enclosed by a heat-insulating housing. The refrigerator includes at least one compartment for accommodating articles that are to be cooled. The compartment has a curved edge and is disposed in the inner space. A strip is adapted to be placed on the curved edge in the form of a decorative, protective or reinforcing element, and maintains its curved shape.

**Objection to the Drawings**

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a), for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, specifically the inner space and door compartment of claims 10 and 17. Applicants respectfully traverse the objection. Drawings are required "where necessary for the understanding of the subject matter sought to be patented." 35 USC § 113. Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of a refrigerator comprising an inner space enclosed by a heat-insulating housing of claims 10 and 20, and the door compartment of claim 17 is known to persons of ordinary skill in the art, and such knowledge is enabled by the specification and the claims. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection

to the drawings.

**The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 10-17 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leimkuehler et al. (hereinafter Leimkuehler) in view of Fisher. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Independent claims 10 and 20 recite a refrigerator having, *inter alia*, at least one compartment for accommodating articles to be cooled wherein the compartment includes a curved edge. The refrigerator also includes a strip adapted to be placed on the curved edge. Leimkuehler does not disclose or suggest the combination of the compartment and the strip, as disclosed by Applicant.

With respect to these features, the grounds of rejection allege that Leimkuehler discloses a refrigerator comprising at least one compartment (16) for accommodating articles to be cooled and having a curved edge (24); and a strip (18) place on the curved edge (Figs. 2-3). Applicant respectfully submits that Leimkuehler discloses refrigerator bucket 16 adapted to be mounted on a refrigerator door. The bucket includes a container having an open top face with a finished top edge and tabs extending downwardly from the top edge of the container for connecting the container to the refrigerator door. The refrigerator bucket also includes a trim piece 18 operatively connected to the container for at least partially covering the finished top edge of the container (see FIG. 2).

Applicant discloses a strip adapted to be placed only on a top edge of the curved

front wall of the compartment. However, the trim piece 18 disclosed by the Leimkuehler covers the entire top face 22 along with finished top edge 24 of the refrigerator bucket 16. Further, the strip disclosed by the Applicant includes a plastic core and a metal jacket adapted to cover the plastic core. However, the trim piece 18 disclosed by the Leimkuehler is merely composed of either a clear plastic or an opaque plastic (see paragraph [0022]).

Further, Applicant discloses that the lateral walls of the compartment are configured with grooves, adapted to be engaged with the projections formed on the ribs of the refrigerator door. However, the engagement of the refrigerator bucket 16 with the refrigerator door 12 disclosed by the Leimkuehler is achieved by the tabs 26, which is substantially different from the arrangement disclosed by the Applicant (see paragraph [0024]).

Applicant discloses that the strip includes a groove conforming to a bead configured on the top edge of the curved front wall. Further, the groove of the strip is adapted to snap-fit onto the bead for enabling the mounting of the strip on the top edge of the curved front wall. Specifically, the bead includes a cross-section in the shape of three quarters of a circle, and the groove has a cross-section roughly in the shape of a circle segment narrower in its inlet region than at its widest point, thereby allowing the snap-fit engagement between the strip and the curved front wall of the compartment. Also, the elastic nature of the plastic core and the rigid nature of the metal jacket of the strip facilitate the snap-fit engagement between the strip and the compartment. However, the

trim piece 18 disclosed by Leimkuehler contains at least one energy director 32 for use in ultrasonic welding, thereby enabling the mounting the trim piece 18 onto the finished top edge 24 of the container 20. Additionally, the intended use of the trim piece 18 disclosed by Leimkuehler is to merely enhance the aesthetics of the refrigerator bucket 16, however the intended use of the strip disclosed by the Applicant is to reinforce the free edge of the compartment in addition to the enhancement of the aesthetics of the compartment. Therefore, the strip disclosed by the Applicant is substantially different from the trim piece 18 disclosed by Leimkuehler in terms of the structural configuration and the functional aspect.

Further, Applicant discloses that the strip is manufactured by co-extrusion of the metal jacket with the plastic core. Thereafter, a piece is cut from a straight strip in the length required for the front wall and bent to a radius of curvature corresponding to the curvature of front wall, which results in plastic deformation of the metal jacket.

Additionally, a thickness of the metal jacket is chosen for allowing the strip to retain its curved configuration after bending against the plastic core. Moreover, the intended use of the metal jacket disclosed by the Applicant is to provide reinforcement to the strip and enable snap-fit engagement of the strip with the curved front wall of the compartment. However, the sheet metal strip 6 disclosed by Fisher is bent at part 8 and 9 for mounting the body member along a periphery of the circular panel 1. In such instance, the sheet metal strip 6 rigidly holds the body member onto the circular panel 1, and accordingly removal of the sheet metal strip 6 and/or the body member would require substantial effort. However, the strip disclosed by the Applicant may be easily removed and

remounted on the curved front wall of the compartment. Therefore, the metal jacket disclosed by the Applicant is substantially different from the sheet metal strip 6 disclosed by Fisher in terms of functional aspect.

The Response to Arguments states that a product by process limitation is given little patentable consideration when determining patentability of a claimed product. Applicants respectfully submit for the reasons above that neither Leimkuehler et al. or Fisher disclose or suggest the claimed strip of the invention.

For the at least foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that Claims 10 and 20 are allowable. Claims 11-17 depend from independent Claim 10, and are allowable at least for at least the reasons given above with respect to Claim 10.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 10-20 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

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